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Senator Fulbright Is Right

Senator Fulbright is right. That business of a CIA officer writing a feature article in the April issue of Foreign Affairs magazine entitled "The Faceless Viet Cong," without identification of the author as a full-time CIA employee was improper.

CIA Director William F. Raborn's explanation that the magazine solicited the article from George A. Carver, Jr., who had once served in Saigon, and that the text had been cleared by the CIA for security, is not enough. As a matter of fact, that revelation compounds the impropriety, for it means that the CIA knowingly cooperated in deceiving the public, the newspaper editors who study the publication, college students who regularly use it in their classwork, and the long-suffering taxpayer who foots the CIA's bills.

There comes to mind a famous and expensive survey of our country's Far East policy which the United States Senate contracted out to a California group a while back. The firm which did the study was headed by a man known to Washington newsmen as a CIA employee.

Actually, most newsmen were surprised to learn that he was no

longer physically in the Washington offices. It isn't recorded that any member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee questioned how recently the head of a study group had been a CIA official, nor did anyone even ask if he might still be CIA-employed, covertly, as these things are sometimes done.

We think Senator Fulbright might pursue his campaign by recalling to Washington some of the witnesses who have testified on our foreign policy before his own Committee recently, to ask if they have received CIA monies, overtly or covertly, in recent months or years. And certainly all future witnesses should be asked that question immediately upon being sworn.

The public and the press is entitled to know if it is hearing testimony from a witness who benefits from CIA largesse directly, or indirectly through a University or a tax-exempt foundation.

That would be very revealing, Senator. Why don't you just call back the witnesses you have had before your own Committee over the past couple of years, and ask them?

That would be a good starting place, wouldn't it?